Constitution of Physiotherapy Council

513. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for constitution of Physiotherapy Council;

(b) if so, by when the said council would be constituted;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that despite 80,000 registered physiotherapists at various associations including regional council, no regulatory body has been constituted to look into the affairs; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) to (e) A Bill namely, 'Paramedical and Physiotherapy Central Councils Bill, 2007 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 04.12.2007 to constitute Paramedical and Physiotherapy Central Council and the same was referred to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare for its examination. Through the 31st report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare certain changes were suggested to be made. Meanwhile the bill lapsed with the dissolution of 14th Lok Sabha. Presently, there is no regulatory body at the Central level to look into the affairs of physiotherapists.

Spreading of HIN1 virus

514. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that H1NI virus has come to India mainly through foreigners;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any corrective measure to examine the foreign passengers at the airports; and

(c) the details of steps Government has taken to cure this virus-infected people?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Infection with pandemic influenza was first observed in Mexico in March, 2009 and subsequently spread to 206 countries across the globe, mainly through air travel including India.

Entry screening of passengers was started at all 22 international airports from 1st May, 2009. Twenty eight thermal imaging cameras were installed at seven airports (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Goa). Passengers from affected countries are subjected to temperature monitoring. On being suspected of having sign and symptoms of H1N1 flu, the patient is isolated and treated in dedicated health facilities attached to the airports. The contacts of such passengers are identified and provided preventive treatment.

(c) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place. Community surveillance to detect clusters of influenza like illness is being done through Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. Laboratory network has been strengthened. There are forty two laboratories (24 in Government Sector and 18 in Private Sector) testing the clinical samples.

All States have been requested to gear up the state machinery, open large number of screening centres and strengthen isolation facilities including critical care facilities at district level.

Government of India procured 40 million capsules and 4 lakh bottles of Oseltamivir, the drug to treat H1N1 Flu. 18 million have been given to the States/UTs. Restricted sale of Oseltamivir is allowed through retail outlets having license to sell Schedule X drug. Adequate stock of personal protective equipments has been kept. Three Indian manufacturers of vaccine are being supported to manufacture H1N1 vaccine. Four million doses are being imported to vaccinate the high risk group. Training of district level teams is supported by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Indian Medical Association has been provided funds to train private practitioners.

A task force in the I&B Ministry is implementing the media plan, Travel advisory, do's and don'ts and other pertinent information has been widely published to alley fear and avoid panic. Media is kept informed on daily basis. All such information is also available on the website: http://mohfw-hlnl.nic.in.

Use of morphine for terminally ill patients

515. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India as being one of the largest producers and exporters of legal opium in the world, is abysmally failing to use morphine to relieve crippling pain to patients of cancer, AIDS, burns and accidents;

(b) whether Government is aware that developed countries, the importers of opium from India are using morphine as per the doctors' prescriptions; and

(c) the reasons for not following the practice in India and thus showing cruelty to serious and dying patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) In so far as the Central Government hospitals located in Delhi namely, Safdarjung, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and associated hospitals, are concerned, the Morphine injection is used whenever indicated/suggested by the attending doctors to the patients suffering from diseases like cancer, AIDS, burn accidents cases for their relief and at no stages it is denied to such patients.